

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 L-03 IO-13

SSM-03 /098 W

-----071644 170130Z /15

R 161149Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6108

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 4412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, SU, ET, SO, EG, IS

SUBJECT: SUDANESE MILITARY VIEWS ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. DURING MEETING ON OTHER MATTERS DEC 15 WITH DCM, MAJ. GEN ABD AL-MAJID HAMID KHALIL, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, SUDAN PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES, COMMENTED ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. WE THINK HIS VIEWS ACCURATELY REFLECT GENERAL CONCENSUS ON THESE MATTERS WITHIN SUDANESE OFFICER CORPS AND THEREFORE ARE SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS SUDANESE MILITARY'S SUPPORT FOR NIMEIRI.

2. ON DEVELOPMENTS IN HORN, GEN MAJID WAS PESSIMISTIC. NEWS OF MASSIVE SOVIET AIRLIFT CONFIRMED SUDANESE MILITARY'S

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PREDICTIONS OF SOVIET AIMS IN ETHIOPIA AND REGION GENERALLY.

GEN.MAJID FEARS SOVIET-BACKED ETHIOPIANS WILL ATTACK

SOMALIA EVENTUALLY AND QUOTE THEN THEY WILL ATTACK US

UNQUOTE. HE SAID SUDANESE KNOW FROM THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE

HOW LONG IT TAKES TO TRAIN CREWS TO USE SOVIET MIG AIRCRAFT,

AND HE THEREFORE PRESUMES THAT QUOTE MERCENARIES UNQUOTE

HAVE BEEN OR SOON WILL BE USED IN ETHIOPIA. GEN MAJID

SAID SUDANESE FORCES HAVE STRICT ORDERS NOT RPT NOT TO CROSS BORDER INTO ETHIOPIA. HOWEVER, IF THEY ARE ATTACKED IN SUDAN, THEY WILL RESIST ATTACKERS AND PURSUE THEM BACK ACROSS BORDER INTO ETHIOPIA.

3. GEN MAJID WAS CRITICAL OF ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA. IF ISRAELIS WERE SMART, HE SAID, THEY WOULD NOT SUPPORT SOVIET-BACKED MENGISTU REGIME WHICH IS HOSTILE TO EGYPT, SUDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA. HE SUGGESTED THAT THESE THREE ARAB COUNTRIES REPRESENT LESS OF A THREAT TO ISRAEL THAN RADICAL, SOVIET-BACKED ETHIOPIA.

4. ON SADAT INITIATIVE AND VISIT TO ISRAEL, GEN. MAJID EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT. HE SEES SADAT'S MOVES AS POSSIBLY HERALDING BREAKTHROUGH IN MIDDLE EAST. HOWEVER, HE FEARS THAT IF US/ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR SADAT, DEFINED AS SIGNIFICANT ISRAELI CONCESSIONS, ARE NOT RPT NOT FORTHCOMING, SITUATION FOR SADAT COULD BECOME EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. HE THEREFORE URGED US TO PERSUADE ISRAEL MAKE SIGNIFICANT GESTURE NOW IN ITS OWN BEST INTEREST.

5. COMMENT: GEN. MAJID'S VIEWS CONSISTENT WITH OFFICIAL SUDANGOV POSITIONS AND ALSO JIBE WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF MILITARY'S POSITIONS ON REGIONAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. IN BRIEF HE IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT HORN, OPTIMISTIC ABOUT MIDDLE EAST AND NERVOUS ABOUT BOTH REGIONS. PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT  
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ASPECT OF HIS REMARKS IS THAT THEY INDICATE SOLID BACKING FOR NIMEIRI'S FOREIGN POLICIES BY ARMY. BERGUS

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## Message Attributes

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